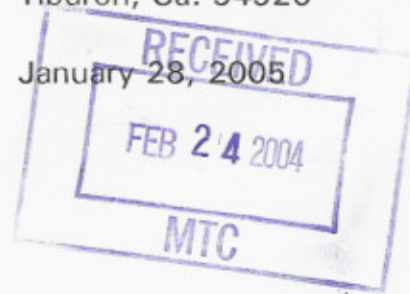


P. O. Box 250  
Tiburon, Ca. 94920

January 28, 2005

Joint Policy Committee  
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
Oakland, Ca. 94607



Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support the MTC and Joint Policy Committee's steps toward connecting land use and transit, but I am concerned the proposed policy will not accomplish its' objectives. I urge you to strengthen the policy by adopting the Livable Communities Platform which will help create good land use around transit stations.

I know that MTC is considering a policy that sets certain requirements for housing and jobs along transit corridors to measure growth. While the focus on housing is laudable, I am concerned that the proposed policy will continue to allow poorly planned station areas.

I urge you to adopt the following Livable Communities Platform as part of a Regional Transit Oriented Development Policy requiring, before MTC funds transit expansion projects, cities to:

- Plan for compact development so that at least half the new housing built in the Bay Area is located within a half-mile radius of station areas.
- Plan for a minimum threshold of housing within station areas, separate from a jobs threshold.
- Promote affordable housing within station areas.
- Prohibit big-box development within station areas.
- Create plans to minimize space dedicated to parking in station areas.
- Develop bike and pedestrian plans for safe routes to and within station areas.

I'm eager to support a policy linking transportation funding to land use, but as currently proposed, it may be ineffective and may backfire in number of cities.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Ostrow